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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No. 0756-1894
	First Inventor or Application Identifier: Shunpei Yamazaki et al.
	Title: Laser Process
	Express Mail Label No.

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <small>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents</small>	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
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1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) <small>(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</small> 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Total Pages [18] <small>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</small> - Descriptive title of the invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the invention - Brief Summary of the invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets [7] 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration Total Pages [2] a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) <small>(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)</small> <small>[Note Box 5 below]</small> i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b) 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies <hr/> ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney <small>(when there is an assignee)</small> 10. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS <small>(IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations</small> 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) <small>(Should be specifically itemized)</small> 14. <input type="checkbox"/> *Small Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed in prior application, <small>Statement(s) Status still proper and desired</small> <small>(PTO/SB/09-12)</small> 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <small>(if foreign priority is claimed)</small> 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other. <small>*A new statement is required to be entitled to pay small entity fees, except where one has been filed in a prior application and is being relied upon.</small>
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17. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:
☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. 08/709,108 filed 09/06/96;
 which is a continuation of 08/409,929 filed 03/23/95; which is a continuation of 08/081,696 filed 06/25/93
 Prior application information: Examiner: M. Padgett Group/Art Unit: 1762

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label or <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below	
<small>(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)</small>	
Name Eric J. Robinson Firm SIXBEY, FRIEDMAN, LEEDOM & FERGUSON, P C Address 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800 City McLean State VA Country U S A Telephone (703) 790-9110	Zip Code 22102 FAX (703) 863-0370
Name (Print/Type) Eric J. Robinson Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 38,285	
Signature	Date: 11/23/98

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FEE TRANSMITTAL		Complete If Known					
<i>Patent fees are subject to annual revision on October 1</i> <i>These are the fees effective October 1, 1997 Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid See Forms PTO/SB/09-12</i>		Application Number					
		Filing Date					
		First Named Inventor		Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al			
		Examiner Name		M. Padgett			
		Group Art Unit		1762			
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT		(\$) 994 00		Attorney Docket Number 0756-1894			
METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)		FEE CALCULATION (continued)					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to Deposit Account No 19-2380 Deposit Account Name SIXBEY, FRIEDMAN, LEEDOM & FERGUSON, PC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1 16 and 1 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1 18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other		3 ADDITIONAL FEES					
		Large Entity		Small Entity			
		Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
		105	130	205	65	Surcharge-late filing fee or oath	
		127	50	227	25	Surcharge-late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
		139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
		147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
		112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
		113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
		115	110	215	55	Ext for reply within first month	
		116	380	216	190	Ext for reply within second mth	
		117	870	217	435	Ext for reply within third mth	
		118	1,360	218	680	Ext for reply within fourth mth	
		128	1,850	228	925	Ext for reply within fifth month	
		119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal	
		120	300	220	150	Filing brief in support of appeal	
		121	260	221	130	Request for Oral Hearing	
		138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute public use proceeding	
		140	110	240	55	Petition to revive-unavoidable	
		141	1,210	241	605	Petition to revive-unintentional	
		142	1,210	242	605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
		143	430	243	215	Design issue fee	
		144	580	244	290	Plant issue fee	
		122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
		123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
		126	240	126	240	Submission of IDS	
		581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
		146	760	246	380	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1 129(a))	
		149	760	249	380	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1 129(b))	
						Other _____	
						Other _____	
						*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid	
SUBTOTAL (1)			[760]	SUBTOTAL (3)			\$ _____
2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES		Extra Claims Fee from Below Fee Paid					
Total Claims		20 - 20** = 0 X =					
Independent Claims		6 - 3** = 3 X 78 =		234			
Multiple Dependent Claims							
**or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see below							
Large Entity Small Entity							
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description			
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20			
102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3			
104	260	204	130	Multiple dependent claim			
109	78	209	39	**Reissue independent claims over original patent			
110	18	210	9	**Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent			
SUBTOTAL (2)			[234]				
SUBMITTED BY Eric J. Robinson		Complete (if applicable)					
Typed or Printed Name	Eric J. Robinson			Reg. Number	38,285		
Signature				Date	11/23/98		
				Deposit Account User ID	19-2380		

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re DIVISIONAL Application of)
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.)
Based On Serial No. 08/709,108) Art Unit: 1762
Which Was Filed: September 6, 1996) Examiner: M. Padgett
For: LASER PROCESS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

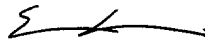
Before the first sentence of the specification, insert --This application is a Divisional Application of Application Serial No. 08/709,108 filed September 6, 1996, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/409,929 filed March 23, 1995 which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/081,696 filed June 25, 1993.--

REMARKS

This application has been amended to include the continuing application data thereof.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Registration No. 38,285

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.
2010 Corporate Ridge, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

LASER PROCESS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a highly reliable laser annealing process suited for use in mass production of semiconductor devices, which enables uniform annealing at high yield. More particularly, the present invention provides a laser annealing process of a deposited film whose crystallinity had been greatly impaired by the damage it had received through processes such as ion irradiation, ion implantation, and ion doping.

2. Prior Art

At present, methods of lowering of process temperatures in fabricating semiconductor devices are extensively studied. The reason for such an active research for low temperature processes owe partly to the need for fabricating semiconductor elements on an insulator substrate made of, e.g., glass. Laser annealing technology is regarded promising as the ultimate low temperature process.

However, conditions for laser annealing are not yet established because conventional laser annealing processes were each conducted independently under differing conditions which depend upon the apparatuses and the coating conditions chosen individually in each process. This has misled and has allowed many to think that the laser annealing technology fails to give results reliable and consistent enough to make the process practically feasible. An object of the present invention is to establish, for the first time, the conditions for a laser annealing process which yields highly reproducible results.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a process for fabricating a semiconductor device, a deposition film is considerably damaged by processing such as ion irradiation, ion implantation, and ion doping, and is thereby impaired in crystallinity as to yield an amorphous phase or a like state which is far from being called as a semiconductor. Accordingly, with an aim to use laser annealing in activating such damaged films, the present inventors have studied extensively how to optimize the conditions of laser annealing. During the study, it has been found that the optimum condition fluctuates not only by the energy control of the laser beam, but also by the impurities being incorporated in the film and by the number of pulse shots of the laser beam being applied thereto.

The deposited films to be activated by the process of the present invention are those containing, as the principal component, a Group IV element of the periodic table, e.g., silicon, germanium, an alloy of silicon and germanium, or a compound of the Group IV element such as silicon carbide. The deposited film has a thickness of 100Å to 10000Å. By taking the light transmission into consideration, it is well established that the laser annealing of such films can be favorably conducted by applying a laser beam in the short wavelength region, and specifically, one of 400 nm or shorter.

The process of the present invention comprises the step of:

irradiating laser pulses having a wavelength of 400nm or shorter and having a pulse width of 50nsec or less to a film comprising a Group IV element selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium, tin and lead and having introduced thereinto an impurity ion,

wherein a transparent film having a thickness of 3 to 300nm is provided on said film comprising the Group IV element on

the way of said laser pulses to said film comprising the Group IV element, an energy density E of each of said laser pulses in unit of mJ/cm^2 and the number N of said laser pulses satisfy relation $\log_{10} N \leq -0.02(E-350)$.

The laser pulses are emitted from a laser selected from the group consisting of a KrF excimer laser, an ArF excimer laser, a XeCl excimer laser and a XeF excimer laser. The introduction of the impurity ion is carried out by ion irradiation, ion implantation or ion doping. The film comprising the Group IV element is provided on an insulating substrate, and the insulating substrate is maintained at a temperature of room temperature to 500°C during the irradiating step.

It had been believed that the sheet resistance can be lowered by applying a laser beam having an energy density sufficiently high for activation. In the case of a film containing phosphorus as an impurity, this tendency can be certainly observed. However, in a film containing boron as an impurity, the film undergoes degradation by the irradiation of a laser of such a high energy density. Moreover, it had been taken for granted that the increase in pulsed shots reduces fluctuation in properties of the laser annealed films. However, this is not true because it was found that the morphology of the coating deteriorates with increasing number of shots to increase fluctuations in a microscopic level.

This can be explained by the growth of crystal nuclei within the coating due to a laser beam irradiation being applied repeatedly to the film. As a result, a grain size distribution within a size range of from 0.1 to $1\ \mu\text{m}$ appears inside the coating which was previously composed of uniform sized grains. This phenomenon was particularly distinguished when a laser irradiation in the high energy region was applied.

It has been found that the deposited film (i.e. a

semiconductor film) must be coated with (covered by) a light-transmitting coating from 3 to 300 nm in thickness instead of being exposed to atmosphere. The light-transmitting coating is preferably made from silicon oxide or silicon nitride from the viewpoint that it should transmit laser beam. More preferably, a material mainly comprising silicon oxide is used because, in general, it also serves as the gate dielectric. Needless to say, the light-transmitting film may be doped with phosphorus or boron with an aim to passivate the mobile ions. If the film containing a Group IV element should not be coated with such a light-transmitting coating, it happens that the uniformity is disturbed in a more accelerated manner.

It has been found also, that a further smoother (uniform) coating can be obtained by applying pulsed laser beam under a condition set forth above and additionally satisfying the following relation:

$$\log_{10} N \leq A(E - B)$$

where, E (mJ/cm^2) is the energy density of each of the irradiated laser pulses, and N (shots) is the number of shots of pulsed laser. The values for A and B are dependent on the impurities being incorporated in the coating. When phosphorus is present as the impurity, -0.02 for A and 350 for B are chosen, and an A of -0.02 and B of 300 are selected when boron is included as the impurity.

Similar effect can be attained by using a transparent substrate instead of the transparent film. That is, a laser process in accordance with the present invention comprises the steps of:

introducing an impurity into a semiconductor film provided on a transparent substrate; and

irradiating laser pulses having a wavelength of 400nm or shorter and having a pulse width of 50 nsec or less to said

semiconductor film through said transparent substrate,

wherein an energy density E of each of said laser pulses in unit of mJ/cm^2 and the number N of said laser pulses satisfy relation $\log_{10} N \leq -0.02(E-350)$.

Fig.7(A) shows the introducing step, and Fig.7(B) shows the irradiating step. Reference numeral 71 designates the transparent substrate, and 72 designates the semiconductor film.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a schematic view of a laser annealing apparatus having used in the embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a graph showing the relationship between the sheet resistance of a silicon film (phosphorus-doped, N-type) obtained by laser annealing according to an embodiment of the present invention and the applied laser energy density, while changing the repetition times of pulse shots;

FIG. 3 is a graph showing the relationship between the sheet resistance of a silicon film (phosphorus- and boron-doped, P-type) obtained by laser annealing according to an embodiment of the present invention and the applied laser energy density, while changing the repetition times of pulse shots;

FIG. 4 is a graph showing the relation between the morphology of the silicon film obtained in an embodiment of the present invention and the applied laser energy density and the repetition times of the pulse shots;

Fig.5 shows a concept of an optical system of the laser annealing apparatus having used in the embodiments of the present invention;

Fig.6 shows a laser annealing process in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig.7 shows another laser annealing process in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is illustrated in greater detail referring to a non-limiting example below. It should be understood, however, that the present invention is not to be construed as being limited thereto.

EXAMPLE

In this EXAMPLE, an impurity is introduced into a film comprising a Group IV element for imparting one of N-type conductivity and P-type conductivity thereto, and another impurity is introduced into a portion of the film with a mask for imparting the other one of the N-type conductivity and P-type conductivity to said portion. In FIG. 1 is shown schematically a laser annealing apparatus having used in the present example. A laser beam is generated in a generator 2, amplified in an amplifier 3 after traveling through full reflection mirrors 5 and 6, and then introduced in an optical system 4 after passing through full reflection mirrors 7 and 8. The initial laser beam has a rectangular beam area of about $3 \times 2 \text{ cm}^2$, but is processed into a long beam having a length of from about 10 to 30 cm and a width of from about 0.1 to 1 cm by the optical system 4. The maximum energy of the laser having passed through this optical system was 1,000 mJ/shot.

An optical path in the optical system 4 is illustrated in Fig.5. A laser light incident on the optical system 4 passes through a cylindrical concave lens A, a cylindrical convex lens B, a fly-eye lens C provided in a lateral direction and a fly-eye lens D provided in a vertical direction. The laser light is changed from an initial gauss distribution to a rectangular distribution by virtue of the fly-eye lenses C and D. Further, the laser light passes through a cylindrical convex lenses E and

F and is reflected on a mirror G (a mirror 9 in Fig.1) and is focused on the specimen by a cylindrical lens H.

In this EXAMPLE, distances X_1 and X_2 indicated in Fig.5 are fixed, and a distance X_3 between a virtual focus I (which is generated by the difference between curved surfaces of the fly-eye lenses) and the mirror G, distances X_4 and X_5 are varied to adjust a magnification M and a focal length F. That is,

$$M=(X_3+X_4)/X_5$$

$$1/F=1/(X_3+X_4)+1/X_5.$$

In this EXAMPLE, a total length X_6 of the optical path is about 1.3m.

The initial beam is modified into a long-shaped one as above to improve processability thereof. More specifically, the rectangular beam which is irradiated onto a specimen 11 through the full reflection mirror 9 after departing the optical system 4 has a longer width as compared with that of the specimen that, as a consequence, the specimen need to be moved only along one direction. Accordingly, the stage on which the specimen is mounted and the driving apparatus 10 can be made simple structured that the maintenance operation therefor can be easily conducted. Furthermore, the alignment operation at setting the specimen can also be greatly simplified.

If a beam having a square cross section were to be employed, on the other hand, it becomes impossible to cover the entire substrate with a single beam. Accordingly, the specimen should be moved two dimensionally along two directions. In such circumstances, however, the driving apparatus of the stage becomes complicated and the alignment also must be done in a two dimensional manner that it involves much difficulty. When the alignment is done manually, in particular, a considerable time is consumed for this step to greatly reduce the productivity of the entire process. Furthermore, those apparatuses must be fixed on a

stable table 1 such as a vibration proof table.

The specimen used in the example were various types of glass substrates (e.g., a Corning #7059 glass substrate) 100 mm in length and from 100 to 300 mm in width. A KrF laser emitting light at a wavelength of 248 nm and at a pulse width of 50nsec or less, e.g. 30 nsec, was used in the process.

A 100 nm thick amorphous silicon film was deposited on a glass substrate 61 by plasma assisted CVD (chemical vapor deposition) process. The resulting film was annealed at 600°C for 48 hours to obtain a crystallized film, and was patterned to make island-like portions 62 and 63 (Fig.6(A)). Furthermore, a 70 nm thick silicon oxide film (a light-transmitting coating) 64 was deposited thereon by sputtering and the entire surface of the substrate was doped with phosphorus. A so-called ion doping process (Fig.6(B)) was employed in this step using phosphine (PH_3) as the plasma source and an accelerating voltage of 80 kV. Furthermore, a part of the substrate was masked 65 to implant boron by ion doping process (Fig.6(C)). Diborane (B_2H_6) was used as the plasma source in this step while accelerating at a voltage of 65 kV. More specifically, phosphorus was implanted (introduced) into the masked portions through the light-transmitting coating to obtain portion having rendered N-type conductive, while both phosphorus and boron were implanted (introduced) into the unmasked portions through the light-transmitting coating to result in a portion having rendered P-type conductive.

Then, laser beam was irradiated to the island-like portions (semiconductor film) while varying the energy density and the number of pulse shots to effect laser activation. The sheet resistance was measured accordingly and the morphology of the crystallites constituting the coating was observed through an optical microscope. The results are summarized in FIGs. 2 to 4.

FIG. 2 shows a graph which relates the sheet resistance of a silicon film having doped with phosphorus ions with the energy density of the laser beam while also changing the repetition of the pulse shots. Phosphorus was incorporated into the silicon film at a dose of $2 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. With a laser being operated at an energy density of 200 mJ/cm^2 or less, a large number of shots were necessary to activate the sheet, yet with a poor result yielding a high sheet resistance of about $10 \text{ k}\Omega/\text{sq}$. However, with a laser beam having an energy density of 200 mJ/cm^2 or higher, a sufficient activation was realized with a laser operation of from 1 to 10 shots.

In FIG. 3 is shown the results for laser activating a silicon film doped with boron ions at a dose of $4 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. In this case again, activation could be conducted only insufficiently with an energy density of 200 mJ/cm^2 or lower that a large number of pulse shots was required for sufficient activation. With a laser beam operated at an energy density of from 200 to 300 mJ/cm^2 , a sufficiently low sheet resistance was obtained with 1 to 10 shots. However, with laser being operated at an energy density of 300 mJ/cm^2 or higher, on the other hand, the sheet resistance was reversely elevated. In particular, contrary to the case of activating with a laser beam energy density of 200 mJ/cm^2 or lower, the sheet resistance was elevated with increasing repetition of pulse shots. This phenomenon can be explained by the growth of grain boundary due to the impaired homogeneity of the film which had resulted by applying laser irradiation for too many shots.

In a practical process, the laser annealing is applied simultaneously to both P- and N-type regions as shown in Fig.6(D). This signifies that a laser beam being irradiated at an energy density of 350 mJ/cm^2 sufficiently activates the N-type region while impairing the properties of the P-type region.

Accordingly, in the process according to the present example, it is preferred that the laser beam is operated in an energy density range of from 200 to 300 mJ/cm², and more preferably, in a range of from 250 to 300 mJ/cm². The pulse repetition is preferably in the range of from 1 to 100 pulses.

As described in the foregoing, the morphology of the deposited film is considerably influenced by laser annealing. In fact, the number of pulse shots can be related to the laser beam energy density and the film morphology as illustrated in FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the term "Annealing Pulse" signifies the number of laser beam pulse shots. The solid circle in the figure represents the point at which a change in surface morphology was observed on a phosphorus-doped silicon, and the open circle represents the same on a boron-doped silicon. The upper region on the right hand side of the figure corresponds to a condition which yields poor morphology on the surface (rough surface), and the lower region on the left hand side of the figure corresponds to that which yields favorable morphology on the surface (smooth surface). It can be seen from the results that the phosphorus-doped silicon has a strong resistance against laser irradiation. Accordingly, the condition for conducting laser annealing without impairing the surface morphology can be read to be such which satisfies the relation :

$$\log_{10} N \leq A(E - B),$$

where, E (mJ/cm²) is the energy density of the irradiated laser beam, and N (shots) is the number of shots of pulsed laser. The values for A and B are $A=-0.02$ and $B=350$ in the case phosphorus is incorporated as the impurity, and are $A=-0.02$ and $B=300$ when boron is included as the impurity.

When the morphology of the deposited film is considerably impaired, the characteristic values show large scattering due to the serious drop which occurs locally in the properties of

silicon. In fact, a scattering in sheet resistance as high as 20% or even more was observed on a silicon film having a defective morphology (a rough surface). This scattering can be removed by satisfying the conditions above and by setting the laser energy density at a pertinent value.

For instance, when a laser energy density is set at 250 mJ/cm², the pulsed laser beam is shot at a frequency of 10 times or less. If the energy density is elevated to 280 mJ/cm², the laser beam is preferably shot at a frequency of from 1 to 3 times. By conducting laser annealing under such conditions, the sheet resistance could be controlled within a fluctuation of 10% or less.

According to the present invention, a highly reliable semiconductor film having low fluctuation in properties was obtained by setting the optimal conditions for laser annealing as described in the foregoing. It can be seen therefore that the process according to the present invention is beneficial to the semiconductor industry.

While the invention has been described in detail and with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

1. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

preparing a plurality of semiconductor islands over a glass substrate;

subjecting said semiconductor islands to an ion doping;

directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;

moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating said semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein an energy density of said pulsed excimer laser beam is not higher than 300 mJ/cm^2 .

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein an impurity selected from the group consisting of phosphorus and boron is selectively introduced into said plurality of semiconductor islands by said ion doping.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein each of said semiconductor islands is irradiated with plural pulses of said pulsed excimer laser beam.

5. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a semiconductor film over a glass substrate;
crystallizing said semiconductor film;
patterning the crystallized semiconductor film into a plurality of semiconductor islands;
subjecting said semiconductor islands to an ion doping;
directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;
moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating said semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein an energy density of said pulsed excimer laser beam is not higher than 300 mJ/cm^2 .

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein an impurity selected from the group consisting of phosphorus and boron is selectively introduced into said plurality of semiconductor islands by said ion doping.

8. A method according to claim 5 wherein each of said semiconductor islands is irradiated with plural pulses of said pulsed excimer laser beam.

9. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

preparing a plurality of first semiconductor islands and a plurality of second semiconductor islands over a glass substrate;

subjecting both of said first and second semiconductor islands to a first ion doping for introducing a first impurity;

subjecting only said first semiconductor islands to a second ion doping for introducing a second impurity wherein said second impurity has an opposite conductivity type to said first impurity;

directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;

moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating both of said first and second semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein an energy density of said pulsed excimer laser beam is not higher than 300 mJ/cm^2 .

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein said first impurity is phosphorus while said second impurity is boron.

12. A method according to claim 9 wherein each of said first and second semiconductor islands is irradiated with plural pulses of said pulsed excimer laser beam.

13. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

preparing a plurality of semiconductor islands over a glass substrate;

forming a film comprising silicon oxide over said glass substrate wherein said semiconductor islands are covered by said film;

subjecting said semiconductor islands to an ion doping through said film;

directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;

moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating said semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam through said film.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein an energy density of said pulsed excimer laser beam is not higher than 300 mJ/cm^2 .

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein an impurity selected from the group consisting of phosphorus and boron is selectively introduced into said plurality of semiconductor islands by said ion doping.

16. A method according to claim 13 wherein each of said semiconductor islands is irradiated with plural pulses of said pulsed excimer laser beam.

17. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

preparing a plurality of semiconductor islands comprising silicon and germanium over a substrate;

subjecting said semiconductor islands to an ion doping;

directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;

moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating said semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein an impurity selected from the group consisting of phosphorus and boron is selectively introduced into said plurality of semiconductor islands by said ion doping.

19. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

preparing a plurality of semiconductor islands comprising silicon and germanium over a substrate;

forming a film comprising silicon oxide over said glass substrate wherein said semiconductor islands are covered by said film;

subjecting said semiconductor islands to an ion doping through said film;

directing a pulsed excimer laser beam having a cross section elongated in one direction to said glass substrate;

moving said glass substrate in a direction perpendicular to the elongation direction of said pulsed excimer laser beam, thereby irradiating said semiconductor islands with said pulsed excimer laser beam through said film.

20. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19 wherein each of said semiconductor islands is irradiated with plural pulses of said pulsed excimer laser beam.

ABSTRACT

A laser annealing process for recovering crystallinity of a deposited semiconductor film such as of silicon which had undergone morphological damage, said process comprising activating the semiconductor by irradiating a pulsed laser beam operating at a wavelength of 400 nm or less and at a pulse width of 50 nsec or less onto the surface of the film, wherein,

said deposited film is coated with a transparent film such as a silicon oxide film at a thickness of from 3 to 300 nm, and the laser beam incident to said coating is applied at an energy density E (mJ/cm²) provided that it satisfies the relation:

$$\log_{10} N \leq -0.02 (E - 350),$$

where N is the number of shots of the pulsed laser beam.

FIG. 1

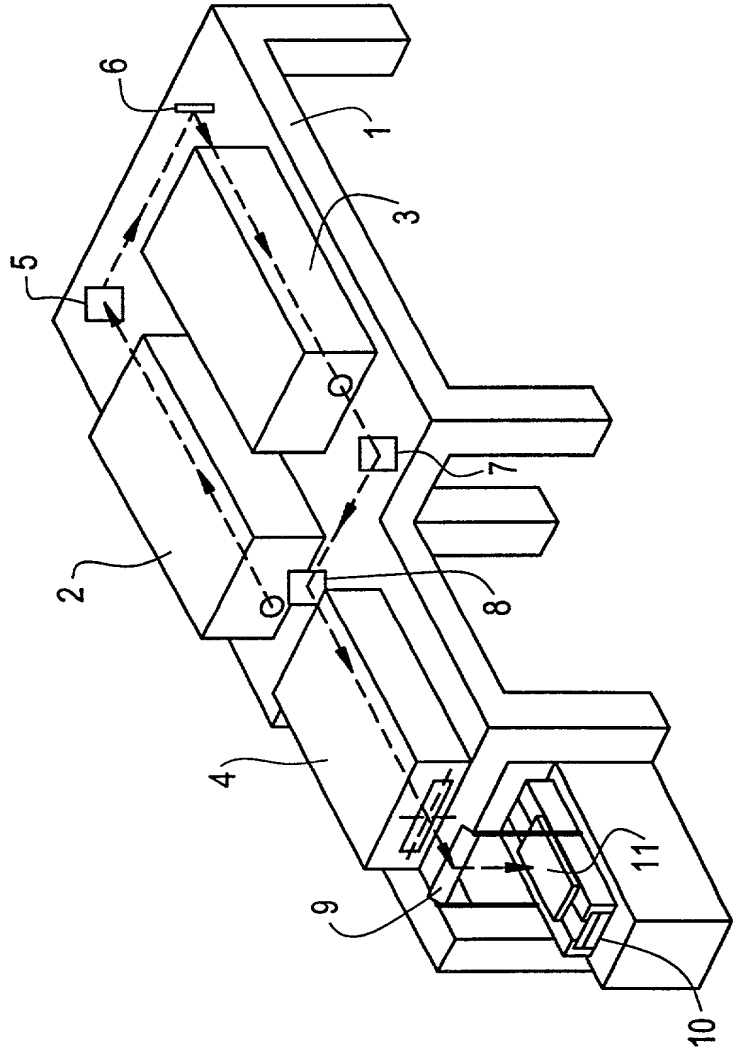


FIG. 2

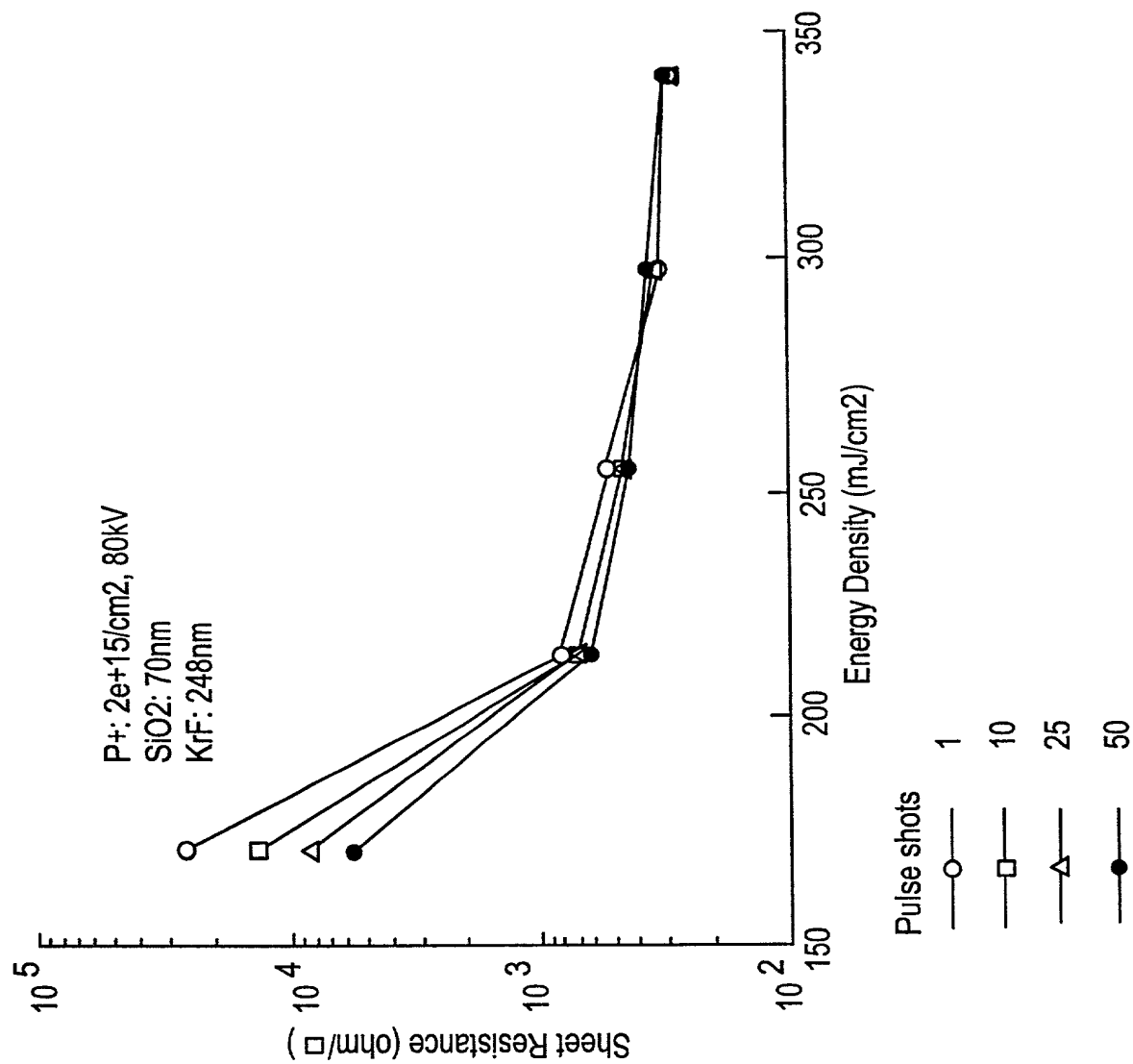


FIG. 3

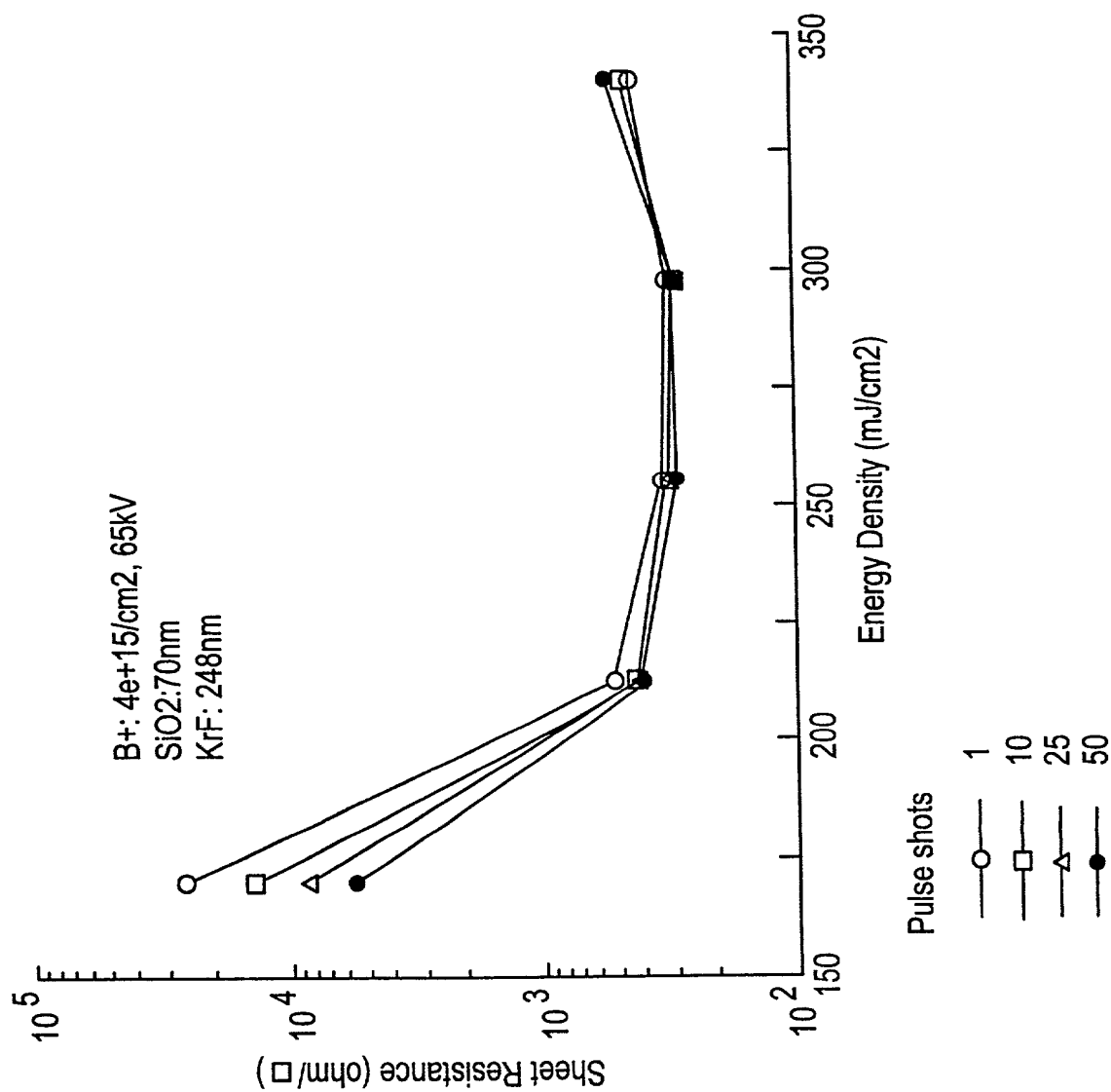


FIG. 4

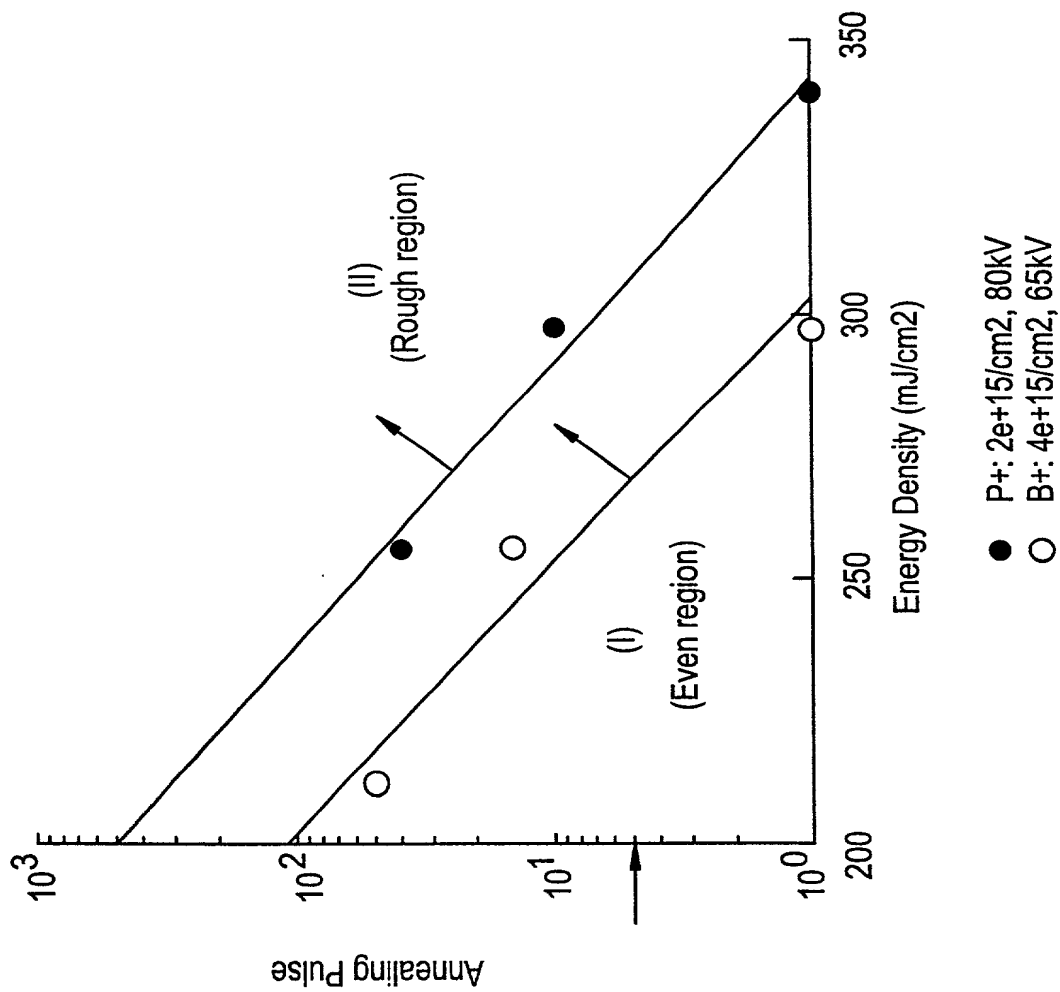


FIG. 5

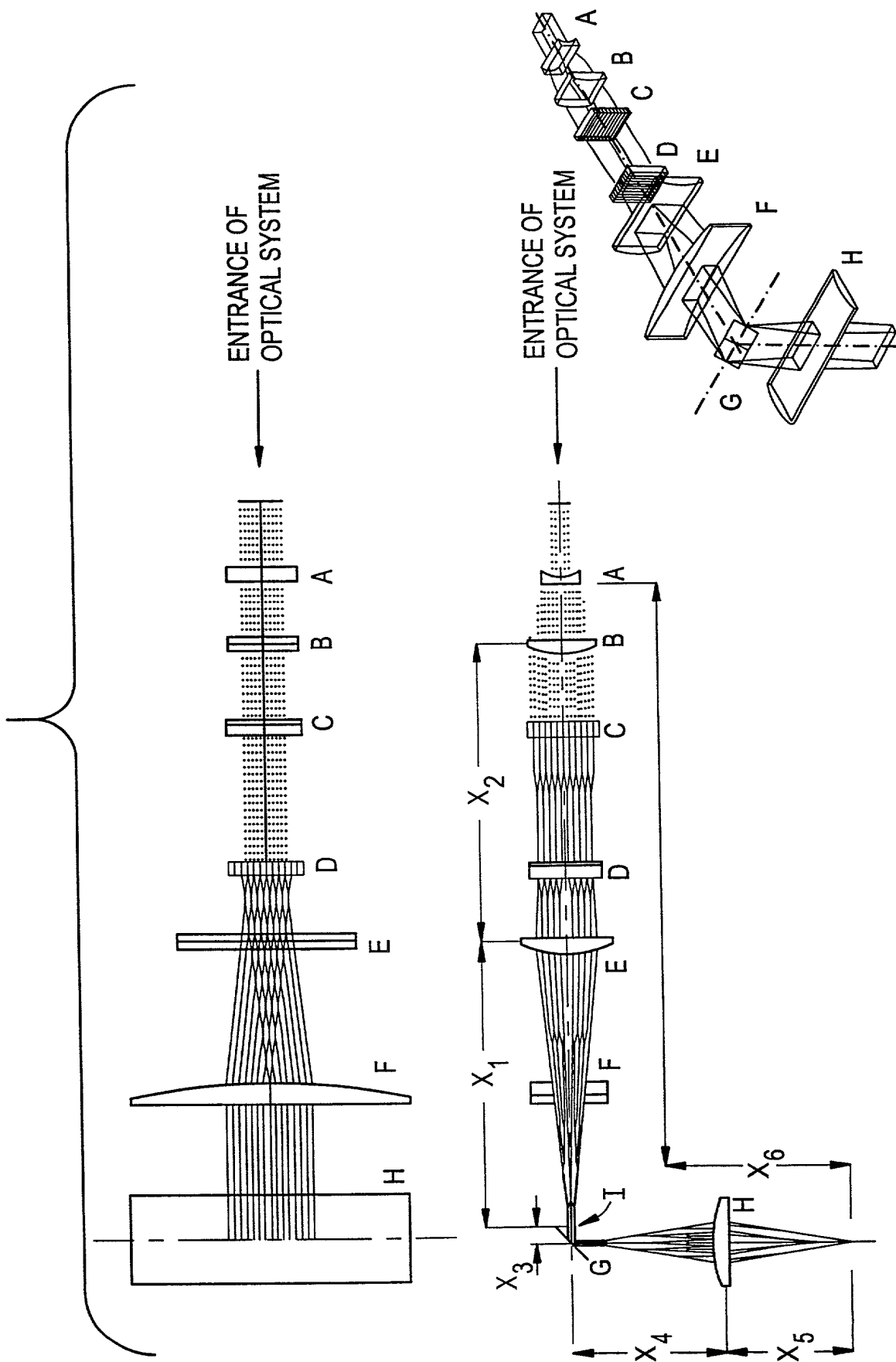


FIG. 6A

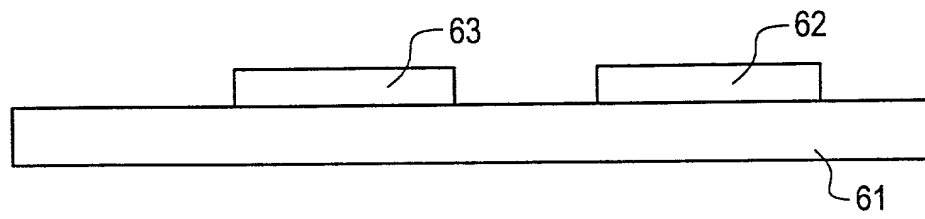


FIG. 6B

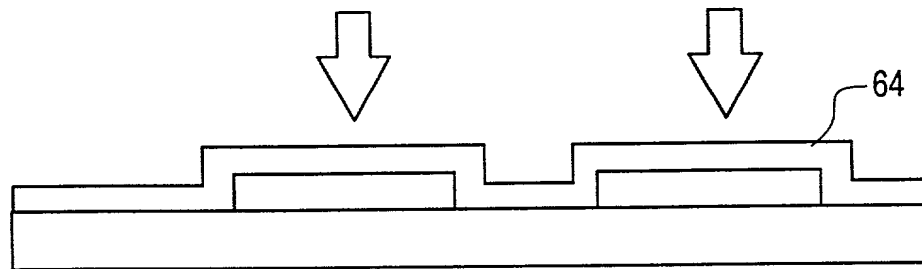


FIG. 6C

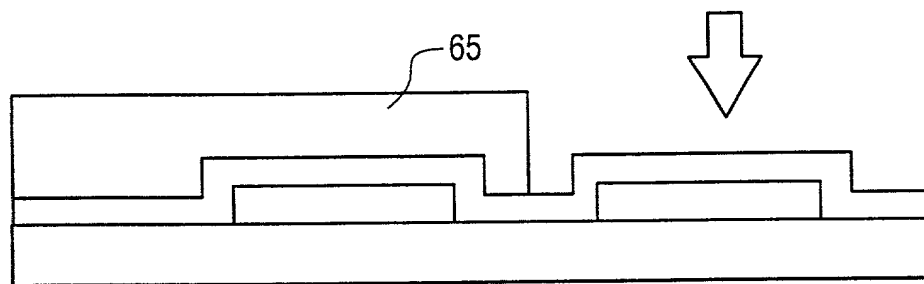


FIG. 6D

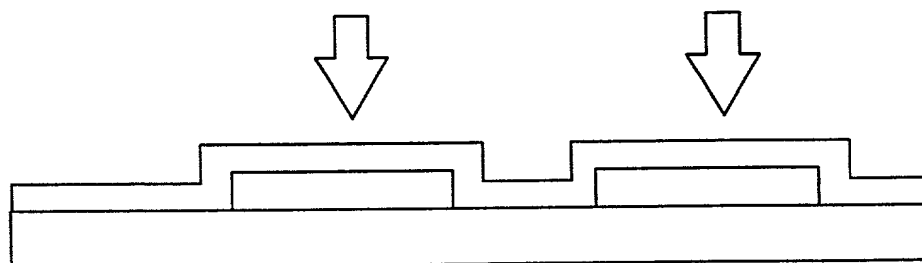


FIG. 7A

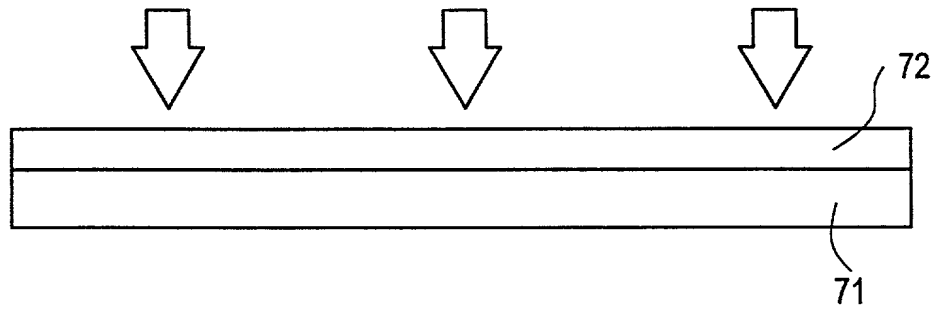
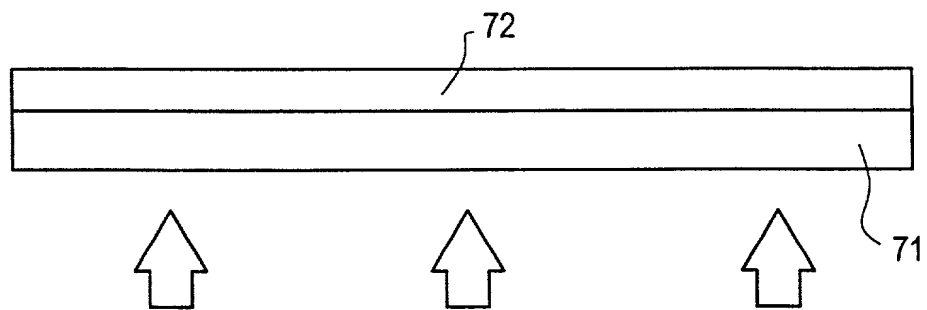


FIG. 7B



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

PLEASE NOTE:
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FOLLOWING:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the invention entitled: * LASER PROCESS

Insert Title

_____, the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

Check Box If
Appropriate —
For Use Without
Specification
Attached

☐ The specification was filed on _____
and was assigned Serial No. _____ (if known)
and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and checked at right:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>4-193005</u> (Number)	<u>JAPAN</u> (Country)	<u>June 26, 1992</u> (Month/Day/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>4-252295</u> (Number)	<u>JAPAN</u> (Country)	<u>August 27, 1992</u> (Month/Day/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

All Foreign Applications, if any, for any Patent or Inventor's Certificate Filed More Than 12 Months Prior To The Filing Date of This Application:

Country	Application No.	Date of Filing (Month/Day/Year)
_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status—patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and/or an international application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Daniel W. Sixbey (Reg. No. 20,932)
 Stuart J. Friedman (Reg. No. 24,312)
 Charles M. Leedom, Jr. (Reg. No. 26,477)

Gerald J. Ferguson, Jr. (Reg. No. 23,016)
 David S. Safran (Reg. No. 27,997)
 Thomas W. Cole (Reg. No. 28,290)

Send Correspondence to:

PLEASE NOTE:
 YOU MUST
 COMPLETE THE
 FOLLOWING

SIXBEY, FRIEDMAN, LEEDOM & FERGUSON, P.C.
 2010 Corporate Ridge, Suite 600
 McLean, Virginia 22102
 Telephone: (703) 790-9110

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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The undersigned hereby authorize any U. S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from _____ as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U. S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys or agents named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

Insert Full Name of
 First or Sole Inventor
 and Date This
 Document Is Signed

Insert Residence
 Insert Citizenship

Insert Post Office
 Address

Second Inventor:
 see above

Third Inventor:
 see above

Fourth Inventor:
 see above

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
Shunpei YAMAZAKI	<i>Shunpei Yamazaki</i>	6/21/1993
RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
Tokyo, Japan	Japanese	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (Complete Street Address including City, State & Country)		
21-21, Kitakarasuyama, 7-chome, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 157 Japan		
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
Hongyong Zhang	<i>Hongyong Zhang</i>	6/21/1993
RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
Kanagawa, Japan	Chinese	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (Complete Street Address including City, State & Country)		
Paresu Miyagami 302, 1-10-15, Fukamidai, Yamato-shi, Kanagawa-ken 242 Japan		
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
Hiroaki ISHIHARA	<i>Hiroaki Ishihara</i>	6/21/1993
RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
Kanagawa, Japan	Japanese	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (Complete Street Address including City, State & Country)		
Flat Atsugi 103 931-1, Hase, Atsugi-shi, Kanagawa-ken 243 Japan		
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	CITIZENSHIP	
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